

# SUMMARY MINUTES

## ABAG CALFED Task Force Water Sub-Committee Meeting

October 18, 2002

Conference Room B, 101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland CA 94607-4756

### WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS/OPEN AGENDA

Chairman Ira Ruskin called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Attendance was as follows:

#### Members Present

Amy Fowler  
Ira Ruskin (Chairman)  
Jake Mackenzie  
Mike Rippey  
Jared Huffman  
Nicole Sandkulla  
Doug Wallace  
Ellen Levin

#### Jurisdiction

Santa Clara Valley Water District  
City of Redwood City  
City of Rohnert Park  
County of Napa  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Bay Area Water Users Association  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
SF Public Utilities Commission

#### Guests Present

Fran Garland

Contra Costa Water District

#### ABAG/CALFED Staff Present

Kathleen Van Velsor  
Mary Selkirk  
Vina Maharaj

ABAG  
CALFED  
ABAG

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### APPROVAL OF WATER MGMT. SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2002.

Motion was made by Mackenzie/S/Huffman/C to approve the minutes of August 16, 2002 with the following changes:

James Pretti and David Briggs were in attendance but were omitted from the August 16 minutes. The minutes is to be amended to reflect their attendance.

### OLD BUSINESS

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Chairman Ruskin passed out a draft letter addressed from the Water Management Chair to the ABAG-CALFED Task Force regarding the Water Management Subcommittees' thoughts on the Smart Growth Planning process and its relationship to regional and local water resources.

Ruskin described that he had a teleconference meeting with Ken Moy, ABAG Legal Counsel in which Moy explained that he, as well as other ABAG staff members, will have to send out reports along with the proposed letter from the Water Management Subcommittee to the ABAG-CALFED Task Force due to the involvement of some legal issues. Ruskin said that the issues raised during the teleconference were sufficiently complex and he was not confident now that a letter should be sent to the ABAG-CALFED Task Force at this time without a better understanding of the objections.

A lengthy discussion took place, some comments/questions were as follows:

- Aside from all the procedural and legal issues, the question is, how as a matter of policy can this association (ABAG) which is supposed to represent regional government begin to grapple with the issue of sustainable resource management? Are the limitations of the resource with regard to water issues being fully addressed?
- CEQA is one way, but that applies to only certain kinds of planning processes which the regional Smart Growth footprint project never claimed it was doing;
- Several recommendations to change the language were made, for eg. "ABAG ought to develop a CEQA-like analysis" or "equivalent to a CEQA analysis". Maybe an introductory paragraph: "in order to better address the demands for more housing, we make the following recommendations: ABAG might develop an equivalent of a CEQA analysis to understand cumulative effects of housing and regional planning scenarios".
- Some members acknowledged that such a request was outside of ABAG's normal boundaries.

The group reached a consensus that a first alternate draft be prepared by Kathleen Van Velsor and Mary Selkirk, then sent to the subcommittee members via email. The Chair would make an executive decision as to what would go in the final draft and will try to reach a consensus among the Water Management subcommittee members before the final letter is sent to the Task Force.

## **SMART GROWTH AND WATER RESOURCES CASE STUDY RESULTS**

Amy Fowler reported as follows:

- SCVWD took ABAG's preferred approach under the Smart Growth Strategy for the Santa Clara County which is the number of additional housing units within the county and the area the growth will occur in.
- The Smart Growth scenario was compared to the current trends base case number, both for housing and jobs. The major difference was there was a net increase in the amount of housing

in Santa Clara county but a decrease in the number of jobs compared to the current trends base case.

- SCVWD did a quick analysis on the number of housing units and a breakdown of the number of single family versus multi-family residential units which will be added under the Smart Growth approach.
- They arrived at a net increase in water demand of 8 – 12%, instead of the 4% that was reported by the Smart Growth Project.

Fowler said that SCVWD suggested to ABAG that as part of the next steps of the report, Bay Area water agencies can assist them in doing a similar type of analysis for the rest of the Bay Area in other counties.

Some other comments were as follows:

- The impact on ground water, did SCVWD look at where the development will be occurring in terms of the need for open space? This is a major issue for East Coast communities where places are becoming paved and there is a realization that ground water is replenishing very quickly.
- ABAG is now using a formula where more weight is given to those areas that are producing jobs and not housing. The old equation used to favor those areas that were producing housing.

## **CALFED REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION AND MEASURE 50 UPDATE**

- Zone 7 has been doing some organizing encouraging collaboration and recycled water projects, trying to set up prioritized list of projects and creating a more comprehensive list of planning needs in all regions for future bonds.
- The general feeling is that Prop. 50 is absolutely essential to keep CALFED going at any kind of speed. Most major Bay Area agencies have endorsed Prop. 50.

## **WORK TASK REVISIONS AND RELATED PROJECT INTEGRATION**

There was a lengthy discussion on the various sub-tasks. Several comments followed:

- The CDM scope is very large, the chances of accomplishing the desired tasks within the budget was very slim. There was a suggestion that the task 4A should be almost reversed in that the information that comes out of CDM can be referred to ABAG, but that the ABAG-CALFED Task Force would be compiling the information.

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- Do the North Bay Water Agencies want to approach CALFED and find a way to be incorporated into CDM Scope?
- When the CDM has developed their framework and looked at demand projections, this could be conceivably the central path for ABAG staff with their limited funding to utilize the framework and help raise comparable data to help generate the Bay Area picture. This would be a product coming out of ABAG, not out of the CDM scope.
- Suggestion of another approach: If ABAG finds resources and takes whatever CDM and BAWAC have produced, the project could be expanded to include other Bay Area counties.
- Very hesitant to put extra expectations on either CDM or the BAWAC consultants.

## **SUSTAINABLE WATER DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting but was postponed to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES – REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS**

Invited speaker, Matt Nolberg was not able to attend this meeting, therefore this agenda item was to be discussed at a future Water Management Subcommittee meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE**

Next Water Management Sub-Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2003 (11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.), Conference Room B, 101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, First Floor, Oakland CA 94607.

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